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HIA REF: 532

Witness Name: HIA 532/B1/R13

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF HIA 532/B1/R13

I, HIA 532/B1/R13 will say as follows:-

Personal Details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] and am now 60 years old. I have eight brothers and five sisters. The eldest is my half sister and then it is [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], myself, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], KIN 2, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My two brothers KIN 2 and [REDACTED] also spent time in care as children. One of my sisters [REDACTED] also went into care when my mother died in January 1980. I attended Strandtown Primary School.

Bawnmore (1966 - 1972)

2. I had been in Windsor House in the City Hospital and I had not wanted to go home. I had a pretty pathetic home life. My parents used to send me to my room and lock me in, but I would escape by jumping out the window of our bungalow. I used to run away and used to hide on the buses or end up in hospital. This was at the age of around eight or nine. My father was cruel to me and I felt that I was not wanted in the house. I was sent to Bawnmore on 16th May 1966 when I was taken into care at the age of ten. I left Bawnmore on 3rd March 1972 when I was almost sixteen years old.
3. The Superintendent in charge of Bawnmore was [REDACTED] BM 3 who was known to me then as [REDACTED] BM 3. The Assistant Head was [REDACTED] BM 4 [REDACTED]. S 2 was there for my first few years only and he filled in on

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occasions as Assistant Head when [REDACTED] BM 4 was away. The matron was called [REDACTED] BM 2, now deceased. The Housefathers that I recall were [REDACTED] BM 1, [REDACTED] S 1 and [REDACTED] BM 14. I also recall Robert Elder. There was a football manager called [REDACTED] BM 15. Peter Bone was not a member of Bawnmore staff but used to call up to the home and was there as a volunteer. The office on the ground floor was [REDACTED] BM 3. Down the corridor there were two massive dorms on the ground floor with five beds in each. Beside those was the store and beside that was [REDACTED] BM 1 room, a bathroom and separate toilet. Past those was the laundrette. The first floor dorms were at the top of the stairs and you could go through them or past them on the corridor. Beside the fire escape was the housefather's room.

4. I was abused in Bawnmore by three of these men, Robert Elder, Peter Bone and [REDACTED] S 2.
5. I was sexually abused by Robert Elder who was a ginger haired man who spoke with an accent that I think was Scottish. I knew him then as Mack Elder. He was a part time fireman.
6. The first time that Robert Elder abused me was when I would have been around ten years old. It was the early hours of the morning. I woke up in his arms, having been lifted out of bed, at the top of the stairs and he was carrying me to his bedroom which was known as the sick bay. I was in the first dorm which had four beds in it. I had been stripped naked of my pyjamas. This was the first in a number of occasions over a period of several weeks when I was taken by Mr Elder to his room to be abused.
7. I was abused by Robert Elder at night when he was doing night guard or sleeping in the home. He was not there every night. He took off my pyjamas and stripped himself naked. He made me masturbate him and tried to force me perform oral sex on him. He masturbated me and performed oral sex on me. There wasn't any anal sex. I was upset and crying. He told me not to tell anyone about it. This happened on a number of occasions and I did not really understand what was actually happening. I never knew what was right and what

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was wrong. I was just so young. I cannot recall how many times that this happened.

8. I was also sexually abused by Peter Bone. He was a Cub Scout leader from Fortwilliam Scouts. Bawnmore was attached to their own Cub Scouts which was 65th Cubs. [REDACTED].
9. I first came across Peter Bone around the time I tried out for the NI Cub Scouts football team. There were a lot of boys there trying out and I was one of the last to get picked. He may have been there that day but I cannot recall exactly. Peter Bone took a particular interest in me after I played in the winning match for the NI Cub Scout International Football Team. I cannot recall exactly how long this was after I was picked for the team. I have since been told that this game was on 5th May 1967 and the prize presentation was held in Dublin on 17th May 1967. All the players got to take the trophy for one month each and I got it first. Peter Bone took photos of us with the trophy. After we won the trophy, Peter Bone took me back to see my parents. When I was in Dublin I got my father a small lighter and a present for my mother which was a little statue of a mother and baby. I didn't know then it was of the Virgin Mary and of course we were staunch loyalists. When my father saw what I had bought my mother, he went mad and it ended up in a huge row. I cried my eyes out. Peter Bone witnessed this rejection by my parents and saw how bad my home life was. He took me back to Bawnmore. When I got the trophy, he took photographs of me in Bawnmore holding it. He then told me that he needed better photographs and he took me to his house. He told me to go up to the bathroom and have a bath. He took photos of me in the bath and then led me to his bedroom where he dried me and then abused me. This was the first time that he abused me. After that, he was forever taking pictures of me and paid me a lot of attention. He regularly took me out of the home and took nude photographs of me and abused me at his home.
10. Peter Bone often took me out of the home and used those opportunities to abuse me. He was an architect and travelled throughout NI visiting various hospitals and on several occasions took me with him. He sometimes took me on drives in his car and on many occasions to his home.

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11. Certain days he asked me if I wanted to go out with him and other times it seemed to have been arranged in advance through whoever was in charge. If someone wanted to take you out, permission was usually given. He was there probably every week and my contact with him was very regular. He took his camera with him everywhere.
12. I do not know if Peter Bone abused other boys but I think he took other boys out too. He did however seem to have a particular interest in me. I believe that I was easy prey for him because of my family circumstances.
13. Peter Bone also sexually abused me when he took me for drives in his car. I recall this was around the time the M2 opened. Bawnmore sat on the edge of the M2 and railings were put up where building work was going on. I was told during the Hughes Inquiry hearings that this was in October 1966. I don't know if that date is right but I do have a recollection of work being done on the M2 in those years. He had arrived at the school in a new car. He knew that I was fascinated by cars and I had asked him to teach me to drive. He let me sit partly in the driver's seat and I steered the car and operated the accelerator. Whilst I was doing this, he rubbed his hand over my clothes over the inside of my legs and around my genitals. He drove into a lay-by, tipped the recliner of my seat, opened my zip and rubbed my penis and then performed oral sex on me. He then took his own penis out and made me masturbate him.
14. This same abuse happened again in the car during drives on a number of other occasions. It mostly happened on motorway lay-bys. This happened on almost every occasion that he took me out in his car which was very regularly. I remember an occasion when he took me to Aitnagelvin hospital with him. I needed to go to the toilet so he stopped the car and I went into the bushes. Before I knew it he had followed me in and was trying to interfere me with again.
15. Peter Bone also took me out during the evenings. It was usually a Monday or Wednesday. He also took me out during the day at the weekends because I didn't go home at the weekends. On Mondays he had a photography club and he dropped me into town to go to the cinema. He wanted me to go into the

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photography club with him but I always refused to go. I think now he wanted to push me on to the others in the club. I wanted to go to the pictures and he used to give me the money for it. On Wednesdays his wife was out playing bowls and on these evenings he took me to his house on Dunlambert Drive, Belfast. I think he had a son and a daughter.

16. Peter Bone abused me on every occasion he had the opportunity to when I was at his house. He was very into photography and he had a darkroom in his house. He took me into his bedroom and took photos of me undressing. When I was naked he then sent me into the bathroom and I had a bath. He would take photos of me in the bath which were mostly close ups of my genitals. Then after I got out of the bath, he dried me and got me to lie on the bed and he would undress and lie beside me naked. He wouldn't let me dry myself. He had pre-set his camera to automatically take photographs of us on the bed. He masturbated and performed oral sex on me and made me masturbate him. He tried on many occasions to force me to have anal sex but it was very painful and made me squeal and cry. He stopped trying to penetrate me because I was so sore and crying so much but he continued to abuse me anyway. This abuse occurred regularly over a period of about two to three years up until I was around thirteen or fourteen. He showed me some of these photos. Some were colour but most were black and white.
17. He used to give me sweets and cigarettes and he gave me a watch, I think on my thirteenth birthday. He also gave me money, a pound or two pounds and paid for me to go to the cinema. I thought he was treating me in a normal father and son way by giving me presents and the odd bit of money. He bought me things that I wanted like football boots.
18. Around a year or so before I left Bawnmore I stopped the incidents of abuse with Peter Bone as I was getting older and realising that it was not right. I was learning from my school friends phrases like 'queer' and learning that what was happening should not have been happening. When I was about fourteen I was in trouble with one of the school teachers, [REDACTED] and I was thrown out of the class. I went to the toilets with another lad for a smoke and he told me that

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the teacher was gay, that he had sex with other men. This was the first time I learned about anything like this and that I caught on that what was happening wasn't normal. It was extremely difficult to break away from Peter Bone. I told him that I wanted him to stop and he used to promise that he wouldn't do anything like that again. But because he took an interest in me, I used to spend time with him again. However the same things would happen and he would try to abuse me again so I cut it off with him completely. He still called at the home and asked for me but I refused to go with him.

19. When I was around fifteen years old, I would normally have left Bawnmore but I got permission to stay for an extra year as I had enrolled on a catering course with Newtownabbey Technical College. After College, Peter Bone would regularly wait for me at the end of the day and used to offer to give me a lift back to Bawnmore or to take me to his house. I used to leave the back way which was a longer way around to get home. When I was in class I could see him through the window outside waiting for me in his car. It was very difficult to settle at the course and I got fed up with Peter Bone's unwanted attention and I eventually left Tech.
20. I told **BM 3** that I wanted to give up on the course and go back to live at home. I think **BM 3** was shocked and indicated that he didn't think it was a good idea. Deep down I didn't think it was a good idea either as my life at home was very unsettled.
21. I didn't tell **BM 3** the real reason for leaving Tech which was that I was trying to avoid Peter Bone. I never reported Peter Bone's actions to **BM 3** or anyone else in Bawnmore when I was there. I had contact with two social workers whilst I was in Bawnmore, a man and a woman, but I did not have any kind of close relationship with them and I cannot recall their names. I felt that they had no interest in me. My parents visited me twice during my time in Bawnmore. My sister **BM 3** had had a row with my father and she ran away and caught her ear on barbed wire and her ear ripped. She ended up as a patient in Throne Hospital which was very close to Bawnmore. My parents visited her all the time and on two occasions called in with me at the same time. Those were

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the only times they ever visited me and it was only because they were going to see [REDACTED]. I did not want to go home and I did not tell them anything about what was going on with the abuse at Bawnmore. I was embarrassed to even think of it and just could not face actually telling anyone. The first my family found out about this was when [REDACTED] told my dad. This was after it came out in the Sunday World. I told Chris Moore of the Sunday World what happened to me but I did not receive any payment for what I told them. My Dad was raging, he went mad about it and wanted them all shot. I got a lot of abuse after I told the Sunday World, that is the way that people react to you.

22. I told [REDACTED] BM 1 about the abuse by Peter Bone after [REDACTED] BM 1 had left Bawnmore and gone to Palmerston. [REDACTED] BM 3 took over [REDACTED]. I used to call in for past members of staff as I had grown up with them and had been happy in Bawnmore apart from the abuse. I had friends there and got to play football all the time. I got money at Christmas in Bawnmore – I got nothing at home. Bawnmore was home to me. I happened to be talking to [REDACTED] BM 1 one night at Palmerston and told him about what had gone on with Peter Bone. He told me that he had a vague recollection that he suspected something was going on because Bone was persistently buying me things. I do not know if [REDACTED] BM 1 did anything about what I told him.

23. I was also sexually abused on two occasions by [REDACTED] S 2 who was [REDACTED] in Bawnmore. On the first occasion it was when I was in my first year in secondary school and I had cut my right hand. I had to go to the doctor's during school hours to get the stitches removed. This was according to my medical records on 17th February 1968. I still have the scar on my hand. I was feeling unwell after having the stitches removed and so I did not go to school. Robert Elder instead took me back home to Bawnmore and I was sent up to my bedroom by [REDACTED] S 2 who was in charge that day. Robert Elder came up to my room with me but then he left. I was lying down on top of my bed when [REDACTED] S 2 came into my room and lay down beside me. He started to rub his hands all over me but I turned away from him to the wall. He rubbed my penis through my trousers. However someone came up the stairs, I think it was Robert Elder, and disturbed him so he stopped, got up off the bed and left the room. After a

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while Robert Elder returned. I suspect now that Elder and S 2 were in cahoots but I cannot be sure.

24. After Robert Elder returned to my room he showed me graphic pornographic photographs. They depicted children, young girls and young boys, with bottles inserted inside them, which at my age seemed like horror scenes. This incident occurred after Robert Elder had started the regular abuse of me in his room.
25. Robert Elder told me to keep the photographs and then give them back to him later and not to let anyone see them. However he came back a few minutes later to get them off me and he counted them to make sure I had given them all back to him. I think there were around nine photos in total. He told me not to tell anyone what had happened and told me that this was going to happen to me. He threatened me that he was going to get me involved in scenes like that, to pose for photographs with things sticking out of me, which terrified me.
26. The same day that I was shown the pornographic photos by Robert Elder, I saw one of the senior boys BM 16 who was two or three years older than me and I told him about the photographs. BM 16 brought me to see the BM 3 in his bungalow that evening. I cannot recall whether BM 16 was still with me when I had the conversation with BM 3 but I think he had gone. BM 3 wife and his children were there in the kitchen too and he told them to leave. Whilst in BM 3 kitchen I told him first about the photographs. The photographs were the reason I went to BM 3 as Robert Elder had expressed an intention to get me to take part in similar activities. It was my fear about that that made me refer to what Robert Elder was doing to me. At that time I did not know that what Robert Elder was doing was wrong. I cannot remember now specifically what I said but I told him about the photos and he would have known from what I said that I was being abused by Elder. I did not tell BM 3 about S 2 abusing me in my room, nor about Peter Bone. I think this was because I was young and I did not really know that what they were doing was abuse and was wrong. I just thought it was part of growing up.

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27. BM 3 told me not to tell anyone and said that he would deal with it. He said it was unfortunate that I had not kept any of the photographs and that if Elder came to me again with more photographs I should try to get one so he could use it as evidence. He said there was little he could do about it without proof.
28. BM 3 never came back or spoke to me again about what I told him and I never heard anything further about what I had reported. A short time after I reported it to BM 3, Robert Elder left Bawnmore and I think he subsequently got a job as a binman. I don't know anything about the circumstances of Robert Elder's departure from Bawnmore.
29. I was abused by S 2 on a second occasion. I think it was just before he got married or emigrated as he was packing to leave. I cannot recall how long this was after Robert Elder left Bawnmore. S 2 invited me to his parent's house in [REDACTED] where I met his parents and he asked me to help him to pack. I think I stayed for one night. I was already in the double bed and he got in beside me naked. I was wearing pyjamas and pretended to be sleeping, lying on my side. He started to touch me again and was trying to masturbate me. I froze. He took my hand and made me masturbate him by holding my hand.
30. I did not really know at that time that this was abuse. It wasn't until I was older, probably around third year in school that I became aware that S 2 behaviour was wrong. There was no one really that I could confide in and the only thing I talked to other boys about was football.
31. The boys used to try to get you to join their gangs but I wouldn't join. I was shot in the face by one of the older boys, BM 17, with an arrow. I fought five of them off one day.
32. I was never abused by S 1. He was a housefather and coached the football. He was kind to me, he took me to Tyrella beach and away camping and trained me in running and football. He knew how much I loved football and trained me a lot. Football was my thing – I signed for Cliftonville in 1972. He said he wanted to adopt me and I wanted that too. I told my dad this but he refused.

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This was when I was around fifteen or sixteen. [S 1] went to [REDACTED] or somewhere and I had wanted to go with him. I was very fond of him and was actually very shocked when I heard that there were allegations against him. I think the police must have told me.

33. I reported the abuse I suffered at Bawnmore to police when I gave a witness statement on 28th March 1980 when the RUC came to question me about Kincora. I told them at that time that if they searched Peter Bone's home they would find evidence. They did this and I then gave a further statement to the RUC on 22nd May 1980 when they showed me a number of photographs that they had found at his house. I identified myself as the subject of some of these photos taken by Peter Bone. There were photos of other boys too. The majority of the photos were taken in his bedroom in his house.
34. I was asked to give witness evidence on behalf of the Crown in the prosecutions of Peter Bone and Robert Elder. As far as I know they were both convicted of a number of charges of assault against children. As far as I know [S 2] was never prosecuted because he emigrated to [REDACTED]. The police told me that it would cost too much to go and get him.
35. I gave a witness statement to the Hughes Inquiry about my abuse at Bawnmore and gave oral evidence on 7th March 1985. I understand this is at KIN-74106 to KIN-74157 in the evidence bundle.
36. I left Bawnmore and went to live at home for a few months but living at home didn't work out. My father was an alcoholic and expected me to work to help support the family but I wanted my independence. My father threw me out and so I went to Kincora at the age of sixteen.

Kincora (1972 - 1974)

37. I was in Kincora from the age of sixteen to almost eighteen on three occasions between 1972 and 1974. The first occasion was from 9th April 1972 until 26th

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August 1973. The second was from 8th September 1973 until 29 October 1973 and the third was from 6th December 1973 until 25th February 1974.

38. I recall the name of the staff members in Kincora. The man in charge was called Joe Mains and he had a flat which was attached to Kincora at the side. The second in charge was called Raymond Semple who had a room in the attic. There was a part time staff member called William McGrath. The abuse I suffered was only at the hands of William McGrath.
39. I was older and a bit more mature when I came to Kincora and I had learned from my experiences at Bawnmore that this sort of attention was wrong. I was extremely wary of William McGrath. He was the reason that I was in and out of the home. I was desperate to get away from him.
40. I shared a room with KIN 217 now deceased, who went to work at the yard early. I worked late nights and didn't start work until half ten as I worked in an office, so I slept on in the mornings. I got the job with George Kelly in the office through Joe Mains. This was because I had lost my painting and decorating apprenticeship after I had a row with the foreman. After the row I walked from Downpatrick back to Belfast. Almost every morning that he was on duty, which was very regularly, William McGrath came into my room. He would put his hands under my blankets and try to rub my penis. I would tell him to stop and leave me alone. I got angry and I chased him away. He did stop but would then just walk away laughing. He had a constant smirk on his face.
41. William McGrath persisted with these attempts to abuse me in the mornings the whole time that I was in Kincora. It was always in the mornings. One day I eventually lost it with him. I completely lost my temper and wrecked the bedroom.
42. I remember one occasion when McGrath attempted to rape me. I was in the bathroom, naked with a towel round my waist. William McGrath came into the bathroom and locked the door. He locked his arms around me and grappled with me to try to remove my towel. I remember that I tried to stop him but he persisted

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and tried to masturbate me. We had a violent struggle and I thought that he was going to rape me. I was finally able to fight him off by pushing him away and I managed to open the door and get out of the bathroom. He gave up and left. I then went back into the bathroom and had my bath.

43. I found it hard to cope with McGrath's behaviour and I often tried to stay out of Kincora when possible. There were occasions when I wouldn't go back as I hated the place because of McGrath's behaviour. I left twice. Once I went back home and once I got a flat but I had to go back. I eventually left when I was nearly eighteen. I got word from the Army that I could join. I had passed all the tests. However I eventually got word I could not join. I never got a letter, it was McGrath who told me about it. He took great satisfaction in telling me, it made his day. He said that there was no room at the Army college and laughed in my face. It broke my heart. My brothers had joined the RAF or the Army and it was what I wanted to do too.

44. I had involvement with the UDA during my time at Kincora from 1974. I thought that this may encourage McGrath to leave me alone. I had no active involvement until after I left Kincora. I absolutely hated McGrath and wanted to kill him. Not long after he tried to rape me in the bathroom, I tried to get hold of a gun. I borrowed a German Luther pistol in a box from an old sailor that I knew. I hid it in its box in my locker. **KIN 217** went to work the next morning as usual around seven-ish. As soon as I heard him close the door, I got out of bed and retrieved the gun from my locker and hid it under the covers and got back into bed. William McGrath came in to the room. I was shaking and my heart was pounding. I was facing the windows and he came towards me and as usual tried to put his hands under the blankets. I pulled the pistol, jumped out of bed and pointed the gun at him. I told him that if he touched me again I would blow his head off. He walked away laughing. I think that he thought it was fake. I gave the gun back to the old sailor. McGrath never came near me again after that.

45. I was never aware at the time I was in Kincora of McGrath having any involvement with paramilitaries. I later heard that he had involvement in Tara.

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46. Whilst I was in Kincora it was generally known amongst the boys what William McGrath was like. I told some of the boys, including [REDACTED] KIN 300 to watch out for him. No one told me about anything happening to them. I never reported this abuse to anyone in Kincora as I was too embarrassed and it was not something I wanted to talk about. I have been told that my social worker whilst I was in Kincora was called Benson. I do not recall him or his name myself. I never told him about the abuse I suffered in Kincora. Contact with the social worker was mainly general conversation and he mostly asked about my situation at home and my relationship with my family. My parents did not visit me whilst I was in Kincora although I did visit them on numerous occasions. I felt distant from my parents and certainly not able to tell them about any of the instances of abuse. [REDACTED] KIN 300 was admitted to Kincora around the time I was leaving and I warned him about William McGrath and told him if McGrath touched him to let me know.
47. On one occasion I went to Ian Paisley's house in Cypress Avenue to complain about the food in Kincora. I went round to his house and brought with me a plate of the food I had been given, to show him how small and bad the meals were. He got on the phone to Kincora but nothing changed, the meals didn't improve.
48. When I gave a witness statement to the RUC on 28th March 1980 I told them about the detail of the abuse I suffered in Kincora. The police approached me after [REDACTED] KIN 300 put them onto me. Initially I didn't want to say anything but they told me that my sister had been taken into care and they asked me if I would want anything to happen to her and that just opened the floodgates and I told them about it.
49. William McGrath was subsequently prosecuted and convicted of a large number of offences against children. I was called as a witness but did not have to give evidence in the end because at very short notice he pleaded guilty on the day.
50. I made a further statement to the RUC about Kincora on 13th May 1982.
51. I recall that there were times when outside people came in to visit the home during my time there but I do not know who they were or why they were there.

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They were suited and booted. I thought that they were officials of some kind, or parents, but I didn't pay them any attention as they didn't come near me. I have no knowledge of anything happening to any other boys. I had no knowledge of any men being involved other than those who were prosecuted. I did not know about Joe Mains or Raymond Semple at the time and was surprised when allegations came out about them.

52. I gave a witness statement to the Hughes Inquiry about my abuse at Kincora and gave oral evidence on 7th March 1985 which I understand is at KIN-74106 to KIN-74157 in the evidence bundle.

Life after care

53. I was married in 1977 but split after six months because I couldn't have normal sex. We divorced in 1978. I remarried in 1990 and had two lovely kids. My son is now 19 and my daughter is now 23 and she is the mother of my only grandchild. I haven't seen them in years. I was involved with the children when they were young but then I lost them, in part due to my alcoholism. I separated from my wife around 2000. I have had significant difficulties with having a normal sex life and this contributed to the break-up of my marriages. It has also impacted my ability to have relationships with women since.
54. I was an alcoholic for around fifteen years but stopped abusing drink around five years ago. I used to use alcohol as a coping mechanism. I was seeing an addiction counsellor who told me that he thought I had post traumatic stress disorder and it was then that I stopped the vodka. I still drink heavily but only beer.
55. I settled a civil claim against Kincora in 1990 and used the money to pay for the wedding in 1990. I don't know if it covered Bawnmore too. I received £7,500. My solicitor was Alan Brown.

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56. The effect of this abuse has left me scared and distrustful of men. I have found it difficult to have normal friendships with men and this has impacted on my ability to pursue my interest in sport and football. I have found it in the past very difficult to get changed in front of other men without feeling distress and shame. I never had a shower after football. It has caused me difficulty with physical affection from my father. There were times I thought I was homosexual.
57. It has massively affected my relationships with my family, both with my children and my siblings. Some members of my family made me feel responsible for what happened to me. Some of them hate me because of it. They blame me. I have been asked many times why I didn't stop it myself. I grew up not part of their lives. When my father was dying in 1994, my family didn't tell me until after he died. I feel I was cut out of my family's life.
58. I still take sleeping tablets now to help me cope with flashbacks and nightmares. I have nightmares of faceless people and of being tied down and unable to move. I have suffered from these all my life. I have attempted suicide on a number of occasions, by cutting myself and taking tablets. Everything gets on top of you. There have been times when it has been very difficult to see a way forward. I have contacted the Samaritans but am not seeing any Counsellor or therapist now. I have had no real help other than the addiction counsellor. The loss of relationships with my children and grandchild causes me a lot of pain.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed **HIA 532/B1/R13** _____

Dated 28 - April - 2016